including the withdrawal of approval, are taken against those violating the norms.

Foreign universities in higher education

†467. SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of India are considering to allow the entry of foreign universities in the country in higher education sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government are considering to enact any law in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (c) The Government has not taken a final view in this regard.

Affairs of AICTE

468. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that AICTE does not give prompt response to the queries on the matters pertaining to applications for various colleges;

(b) the steps proposed to make AICTE more transparent and efficient;

(c) whether it is a fact that applicants have to come to Delhi and wait for weeks together to get a response; and

(d) the number of applications from Andhra Pradesh for B. Pharmacy courses which are pending with AICTE?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (c) The decisions of AICTE in respect of approval for technical institutes, additional courses, increase in intake etc. are displayed on its website *www.aicte.ernet.in* which is updated regularly. The stakeholders are informed about availability of the information on website through public notices. Individual letters are also sent to the applicants.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Improving efficiency and transparency in the functioning of AICTE is a continuous process. Towards this end, AICTE has recently taken up various initiatives which include preparation of Approval Process Handkbook depicting various stages in processing of applications 2006-07, receipt of applications and communication of decisions on-line, laying down time schedule for processing applications, system of random generation of names of experts for inspection committees, etc. The calendar-based process has been abjured and now applications can be submitted throughout the year. Besides the above, the Right to Information Act, 2005 is applicable to AICTE also.

(d) There are 25 such proposals, which have not yet been approved due to certain deficiencies.

Anganwadi centres

469. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a wide variation in between the number of sanctioned and operational Anganwadi centres;

(b) whether it is also a fact that there is an acute shortage of Anganwadi workers in different States; and

(c) if so, the details thereof as on the 30th June, 2005, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) to (c) State-wise numbers of Anganwadi Centres sanctioned, operational and number of Anganwadi workers in-position as on 30.6.2005, are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

State-wise details of Anganwadi Centres and Anganwadi workers

Sl. No.	State/UT	Number of Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) as on 30.6.2005		Number of Anganwadi workers in-position as on 30.6.2005
		Sanctioned	Operational	
1	2	3	4	5
1	Andhra Pradesh	56204	54870	53995
2	Arunachal Pradesh	2359	2359	2359